

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A composition suitable for use in nucleic acid amplification comprising water, gellan at a concentration above 0.005 wt% based on the weight of water, a DNA polymerase, dNTPs, and a target nucleic acid.

17. (New) The composition of claim 16 in which template-dependent nucleic acid amplification is of enhanced sensitivity.